

- 81 -

## ABSTRACT

The present invention provides isolated nucleic acid molecules encoding polypeptides comprising functional steroid hormone and juvenile hormone receptors, in particular isolated nucleic acid molecules which encode polypeptides comprising the *Lucilia cuprina* and *Myzus persicae* ecdysone receptors and juvenile hormone receptors. The present invention further provides functional recombinant steroid and juvenile hormone receptors and recombinant polypeptide subunits thereof and derivatives and analogues thereof. The present invention further provides screening systems and methods of identifying insecticidally-active agents which are capable of agonising or antagonising insect receptor function, or alternatively or in addition, which modify the affinity of said receptors for their cellular stimuli (eg. insect steroids or juvenile hormones) or analogues thereof, or alternatively or in addition, which act as insecticides by virtue of their ability to agonise or antagonise the activity of insect hormones.

15